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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,205	08/18/2003	Tomoaki Hattori	116878	1076
25944	7590	09/22/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				EICKHOLT, EUGENE H
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2854		

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/642,205	HATTORI, TOMOAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eugene H Eickholt	2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,6,7,12 and 13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4,5,8-11 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1-5-04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al.

The exposure devices 4a-4d and the development devices 5a-5b are stacked which reads on the vertical overlapping of claim 1. See column 13, lines 31-34. The photoconductors 1a-1d reads on the "photosensitive member". These correspond to four colors of toner which reads on the "image forming units being provided for each of a plurality of colors". See col. 4, lines 57-60. These are also arranged "vertically". See col. 4, lines 63-65 and fig. 1. Enclosure 200 reads on the casing of claim 1. See col. 7, lines 62-65 and fig. 1. Electrostatic charging of the photoconductors 4a-4d is taught at col. 12, lines 35-55.

Regarding claim 2, col. 12, lines 9-11 teach detachable mounting of the developing devices 5a-5d and col. 10, lines 1-8 which teaches replacing all the photoconductors as a unit rather than individually. The four photoconductors read on claim 3's "at least three image forming units". A folding mirror 31 is used to deflect the laser beam of light directly onto the photoconductors as called for in claim 6. See col. 10, lines 15-20. Claim 7 is anticipated by developer bearing member 37 and the horizontally aligned plurality of developer conveying members 42, 44 shown in fig. 11. See col. 22, lines 6-16 and col. 23 lines 14-18. Claims 12 and 13 call for the exposure devices to be adjustably mounted to the casing. Column 15, lines 10-19 teaches fixing the exposure devices 4a-4d to the enclosure 2000 for "easy system adjustment....which allows mounting and dismounting".

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Claims 4-5, 8-11 and 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The restriction requirement stands withdrawn as requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. A shortened statutory period of 3 months is set to respond.

Eickholt/ds

09/15/04.

Eugene H. Eickholt
EUGENE H. EICKHOLT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Any inquiry concerning the specifics of this communication should be directed to Examiner Eickholt, who can be reached Tuesday through Thursday. Inquiries of a general nature should be directed to the TC2800 receptionist.

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